

I encourage every teenager to talk with their parents about these very important issues and parents to talk responsibly with their children. That is why I am in support of a substitute amendment offered by my colleagues, Mr. CASTLE and Mr. PORTER. The Porter substitute will require that title X programs encourage the involvement of parents when teens seek family planning services.

Encouraging parental involvement is important, and in an ideal world, all teens would have parents they could feel comfortable talking to and be able to sort out what kind of activity is appropriate. But in the real world, we cannot take away an opportunity for at risk teens to receive essential services, by forcing a mandate upon them that will not work in the real world.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Istook amendment and support the Porter amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 9, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. I ask permission that the following explanation for each vote be placed in the appropriate place in the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 371, 372, 373, 374, and 377; and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 376, 378, and 379.

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. WALDROP

##### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleagues, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. WOLF, and me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Waldrop, an outstanding member of the northern Virginia community. Tom is this year's Founder's Award winner from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. The Founder's Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated civic and humanitarian responsibility, and personal participation and leadership in northern Virginia community civic bodies. In addition, the award is presented to an individual who is contributing to improve the quality of life in northern Virginia through leadership in one or more of the following five areas: The arts, education, health, youth, and civic improvement.

Tom is an individual who has made a very strong positive impact on northern Virginia as well as the entire State of Virginia. He is a Virginia native who was born in Montpelier, VA on April 8, 1937. He received his higher education from Virginia schools. Tom received a bachelor's degree in economics from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in business from Virginia Commonwealth Uni-

versity. Tom also served his country, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Tom is currently the president and chief executive officer for Media General Cable which is headquartered in northern Virginia. He has served in that position since 1984. Since that time, Tom has directed the development of one of the Nation's largest and most sophisticated cable television systems. Tom's career with Media General Corp. began in 1967 when he started with Richmond Newspapers. He was quickly promoted and appointed the operations manager of Media General Financial Services at the beginning of 1968. Tom went on to serve as their vice president and as assistant general manager. After his success with the Financial Services division, Tom moved to Media General's Piedmont Publishing Co. where he worked as their business manager, and eventually became the general manager. He left Piedmont when he moved to Media General Cable in northern Virginia.

Tom has shown boundless energy and has made it a priority to work in his community to improve the quality of life for all of us. He works with a wide range of organizations that have made northern Virginia the dynamic, vibrant area it is. Northern Virginia's diverse community has grown dramatically since the early 1980's. It has been successful in maintaining a community atmosphere with the work of people like Tom.

Tom works closely with both the northern Virginia arts and business communities. He is in his fourth term as chairman of the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. He also remains on the board of directors for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Public School's Business Advisory, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Virginia Community College Education Fund, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Tower Club, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. In addition to all of these associations, Tom has previously served as the director of the American Heart Association's Fairfax Board and has chaired the development committee for "Spotlight on the Arts" in the city of Fairfax. He continues to demonstrate his willingness to lead the northern Virginia community in a wide range of areas.

Tom is also associated with a number of other activities where he volunteers his time and services to further enhance our community. He continues to work with the Northern Virginia Business Roundtable, the Virginia Opera's Northern Virginia advisory committee, and the corporate advisory committee for the Women's Center of Northern Virginia. Tom also works with national organizations to improve the quality of our cable television nationwide including serving on the board of directors for the National Cable Television Association and C-SPAN, the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring and thanking Tom Waldrop for his achievements in working to improve northern Virginia for all of its residents. We appreciate all of his work in making northern Virginia one of the finest places to live and work. For those of us that know of Tom's commitment to northern Virginia, it is no surprise that the Northern Virginia Community Foundation has decided to award him their prestigious Founder's Award at a gala on October 24, 1997. It is a well deserved award.

#### THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

##### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 6, 1997 into the Congressional Record.

#### THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

Congress and the President recently enacted a major budget agreement to reform Medicare, balance the budget, and provide tax relief to many Americans. I supported this agreement.

The budget plan is a major political achievement. For many years, the test of governance has been measured by the ability to cut budget deficits. Both sides gave ground, and both sides won major priorities. Most of the credit, however, should go to the booming economy. Historic growth and low unemployment have boosted revenues and reduced spending. The 1993 budget agreement helped reduce the deficit from almost \$300 billion to about \$40 billion today. In the final negotiations, new economic estimates gave negotiators just enough money to brush aside the last disagreements.

The tax bill appears to offer something for practically every powerful constituency—the middle class, older persons, parents, farmers, small businesses, college students, and investors. It would not offer much relief to single working adults or persons without children. It also includes about 80 narrowly-focused provisions, that benefit just a few individuals or businesses. These limited tax provisions could be subject to a Presidential line-item veto.

The five-year agreement will have only a modest impact on the economy. The tax cuts amount to less than 2-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the country's economic output. They were designed to be small enough to have little impact on the economy, and they are affordable because of the economy's current strength. The spending cutbacks are equally modest from an economic perspective. But balancing the budget will show that the federal government can get its fiscal house in order, and it will lower interest rates and boost savings and long-term investment.

#### EDUCATION

The plan includes approximately \$40 billion in education incentives over five years, including the President's \$1,500 tax credit for each of the first two years of college, and up to \$1,000 for each of the next two years. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will allow taxpayers to save \$500 per year for a child's education, with tax-free investment earnings. Finally, up to \$2,500 of student loan interest expense will be tax-free. While I am not convinced these changes will dramatically increase the number of children going to college, they will certainly ease the burden on families paying for higher education.

#### HEALTH CARE

The agreement helps curb rising health costs and the growing number of uninsured Americans. Medicare changes should ensure solvency through 2010, in part through more competition and choice in health care coverage. Provisions in the senate bill to raise the eligibility age to 67, increase co-payments, and means test benefits were not included in the bill. The budget provides health care to about 7 million children who currently have no health insurance. The health insurance deduction for the self-employed will rise to 100%.